

matter of those claims. The new claims are fully supported by the specification and the claims as originally filed. Therefore, there is no issue of new matter.

Claims 1 to 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, for the reasons set forth on pages 2 and 3 of the Office Action.

In response, Applicants have canceled claims 1 to 16, rendering the rejection moot. In addition, new claims 17 to 35 have been drafted so that there is no implication that specific carboxylic acid groups on the polysaccharide are esterified.

Therefore, as the new claims are fully enabled by the specification, the new claims meet the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph.

Claims 1 to 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for the reasons set forth on page 3 of the Office Action.

In response, Applicants submit that "system" claims 1 to 16 have been canceled and replaced with method claims 17 to 35. Therefore, as new claims 17 to 35 are directed to a method, the claims particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter that Applicants regard as the invention. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 1 to 16 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

Claims 1 to 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,336,668 to Francesco et al. ("Francesco") for the reasons set forth on page 4 of the Office Action.

In response, Applicants submit that the present invention is directed to a method for treatment of a necrosis or wound comprising preparing a wound-treatment product, adapted to change state in a reversible manner from a solution state to a gel state and from a gel state to a solution state, the product comprising aliphatic chains attached to polysaccharide macromolecules, wherein each aliphatic chain is attached to a single polysaccharide macromolecule. The wound-treatment product is applied in the solution state to a necrosis or wound, and the state of at least a portion of the product is changed from the solution state to the gel state.

In contrast, Francesco discloses a procedure for the preparation of alginic esters by treating quaternary ammonium salts of alginic acid with conventional alkylating agents in organic solvents. Column 4, lines 15 to 20.

Francesco does not disclose a method for treatment of a necrosis or wound, where a wound-treatment product is applied in the solution state to a necrosis or

wound, and the state of at least a portion of the product is changed from the solution state to the gel state.

Therefore, as Francesco does not disclose the presently claimed invention, the present claims are not anticipated. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 1 to 15 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b).

Claims 1 to 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), as being anticipated by International Publication No. WO 96/37519 for the reasons set forth on pages 4 and 5 of the Office Action.

In response, as discussed above, Applicants submit that the presently claimed invention is directed to a method for treatment of a necrosis or wound comprising preparing a wound-treatment product, adapted to change state in a reversible manner from a solution state to a gel state and from a gel state to a solution state, the product comprising aliphatic chains attached to polysaccharide macromolecules, wherein each aliphatic chain is attached to a single polysaccharide macromolecule. The wound-treatment product is applied in the solution state to a necrosis or wound, and the state of at least a portion of the product is changed from the solution state to the gel state.

In contrast, WO 96/37519 discloses a polysaccharide hydrogel material consisting of a crosslinked product of a functionalized derivative of alginic acid or hyaluronic acid in which a portion of the carboxylic acid groups are partially satisfied with an unsaturated aliphatic or araliphatic alcohol, and the remaining carboxylic groups are partially satisfied with a cation. The functionalized acid is subjected to UV, gamma, or β radiation to form the hydrogel, Page 2, lines 2 to 13.

WO 96/37519 does not disclose a method for treatment of a necrosis or wound comprising preparing a wound-treatment product, and applying the wound-treatment product in the solution state to a necrosis or wound, and changing the state of at least a portion of the applied product from the solution state to the gel state.

Therefore, as WO 96/37519 does not disclose the presently claimed invention, the present claims are not anticipated. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 1 to 16 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b).

Claims 1 to 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Francesco in combination with WO 96/37519 for the reasons set forth on pages 5 and 6 of the Office Action.

In response, Applicants submit that Francesco and WO 96/37519, taken alone or in combination do not disclose or even suggest the presently claimed invention.

As discussed above, Francesco discloses a procedure for the preparation of alginic esters by treating quaternary ammonium salts of alginic acid with conventional alkylating agents in organic solvents, but does not disclose a method for treatment of a necrosis or wound, where a wound-treatment product is applied in the solution state to a necrosis or wound, and the state of at least a portion of the product is changed from the solution state to the gel state.

Similarly, WO 96/37519 discloses a polysaccharide hydrogel material consisting of a crosslinked product of a functionalized derivative of alginic acid or hyaluronic acid in which a portion of the carboxylic acid groups are partially satisfied with an unsaturated aliphatic or araliphatic alcohol, and the remaining carboxylic groups are partially satisfied with a cation. The functionalized acid is subjected to UV, gamma, or β radiation to form the hydrogel. However, WO 96/37519 does not disclose a method for treatment of a necrosis or wound comprising preparing a wound-treatment product, and applying the wound-treatment product in the solution state to a necrosis or wound, and changing the state of at least a portion of the applied product from the solution state to the gel state.

Therefore, Francesco and WO 96/37519, taken alone or in combination do not disclose or even suggest the presently claimed method for treatment of a necrosis or wound.

Therefore, as Francesco and WO 96/37519, taken alone or in combination do not disclose or even suggest the presently claimed method, the present claims are not obvious. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 1 to 16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

Applicants thus submit that the entire application is now in condition for allowance, early notice of which would be appreciated.

Please note that the New York office of Applicants' representatives has merged with Greenberg Traurig LLP. Therefore, all future correspondence should be forwarded to

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No fees are believed to be due for the claim changes of this amendment. A separate Petition for and Extension of Time is submitted herewith. Should any

additional fees be required, however, please charge such fees to Deposit Account No.
501561.

MAR 13 2001

Respectfully submitted,

Date March 9, 2001

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